

Mr. LEAHY. In contrast, Judge Pryor's statements about section 5 reflect a long-discredited view of the Voting Rights Act. Since the enactment of the statute in 1965, every Supreme Court case to address the question has rejected the claim that section 5 is an "affront" to our system of federalism. Whether under Earl Warren, Warren Burger, or William Rehnquist, the U.S. Supreme Court has recognized that guaranteeing all citizens the right to cast an equal vote is essential to our democracy—no a "burden" that has "outlived its usefulness."

Indeed, Congressman LEWIS sponsored a resolution, which is being considered on the floor of the House today, commemorating the passage of the Voting Rights Act 40 years ago this summer. The resolution recalls the struggle for the act's landmark protections—from the brutal suppression of marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL, on "Bloody Sunday" in March 1965, to the passage of the bill by a bipartisan Congress months later—and reaffirms its importance. Forty years after President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act into law, Congressman LEWIS and I remain committed to this essential piece of legislation.

EXHIBIT 1

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 14, 2005.

Senator PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEAHY: During the Senate debate on the nomination of Judge William Pryor to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, Senator Saxby Chambliss quoted a few words of my testimony in the case of the State of Georgia v. John Ashcroft, and implied that I agree with Judge Pryor's assessment of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. I take issue with Senator Chambliss's remarks and want to make clear that his reference to my remarks were taken out of context.

I regret that my colleague, the senior Senator from Georgia, would use my support of a Georgia redistricting plan to justify the confirmation of Justice William Pryor to the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. I strongly disagree with the views of Judge Pryor and do not think he is fit to serve.

I further regret that Senator Chambliss would use my very general statements to suggest that I am not in favor of renewing Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act must be renewed. There is a continued, proven need for the pre-clearance provisions of the Voting Rights Act, which ensure that local and state jurisdictions do not develop laws that intentionally or unintentionally discriminate against groups who may have little or no voice in the establishment of those laws.

We have come a long way in the last two decades, and certainly have come a long way since the 1960's, however, voting obstacles and disparities still exist for far too many minorities. In Florida in 2000, voters were confused by their ballots, polling equipment broke down, and polls did not open as scheduled. In Ohio in 2004, many people stood in what appeared to be unmovable lines for eight and nine hours trying to exercise their right to vote. There were an inadequate number of voting machines and in some in-

stances, bogus officials were sent to polling stations and were found disseminating misinformation and questioning the choices of voters.

As a result of these problems, many Americans were denied the right to vote. These truths continue to demonstrate the importance of the Voting Rights Act to prevent discrimination and to ensure that people are not denied the right to vote. The vote is the most powerful, nonviolent tool that our citizens have in a democratic society, and nothing but nothing should discourage, hamper or interfere with the right of every citizen to cast a vote for the person of their choice.

The history of the right to vote in America is a history of conflict, of struggling for the right to vote. Many people died trying to protect that right. I was beaten, and jailed because I stood up for it. For millions like me, the struggle for the right to vote is not mere history; it is experience. The experience of the last two presidential elections tells us that the struggle is not over and that the special provisions of the Voting Rights Act are still necessary. We should not take a step backward, when there is still much to be done to ensure every vote and every voter counts.

As we work toward reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act, we must move in a deliberative manner, conduct open and adequate hearings, and ensure that we create the appropriate legislative history and factual findings. I look forward to working with you to protect the voting rights of all Americans, by reauthorizing and strengthening the provisions of the Voting Rights Act.

Sincerely,

JOHN LEWIS,
Member of Congress.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY AND NASA'S RETURN TO FLIGHT.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I today observe two momentous occasions: the Space Shuttle's Return to Flight and the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Yesterday, at 10:39 a.m. eastern daylight time, the Space Shuttle *Discovery* safely lifted off from its launch pad at Cape Canaveral, FL. It blasted into orbit carrying seven of our Nation's finest, on a mission to resupply the International Space Station, test the Shuttle, and resume America's manned exploration of the cosmos.

I want to thank NASA's Administrator, Michael Griffin, and the thousands of men and women who have worked tirelessly in the wake of the *Columbia* tragedy to upgrade the safety of our space mission. Their commitment and courage have helped turn our Nation's dreams to the heavens and stars once again.

Also this month, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the entrance of the first class of cadets to the Air Force Academy.

It is fitting that NASA's return to flight occurs at a moment when we are reflecting on the Air Force Academy's first half century of service, because the Academy and NASA are two institutions that attract the best men and women in our country. Due to their shared focus on flight, the two institutions are forever linked. In fact, two of

the astronauts guiding the *Discovery* in orbit overhead right now come from the Air Force Academy.

LTC Eileen Collins, a former professor in the Air Force Academy's Mathematics Department, is currently soaring 122 miles above us as the commander of the Shuttle's return to flight. Raised in public housing in upstate New York, Eileen Collins broke through every barrier laid before her to become the first woman to pilot a Shuttle. When she came to the Air Force Academy in 1986 she helped usher in a new era at the Academy, an era where women were allowed to compete and succeed on an equal playing field. We in Colorado are very proud that Lieutenant Colonel Collins' journey to space brought her to the Air Force Academy.

Sitting next to Lieutenant Colonel Collins today in the Space Shuttle is *Discovery's* pilot, James Kelly, Air Force Academy class of 1986.

James Kelly grew up in the small town of Burlington, IA, where the sounds of passing airplanes inspired dreams of spaceflight. The Air Force Academy gave James Kelly the tools, training, and opportunity to take to the skies. It gave him, and the thousands of other young men and women who have passed through its gates, a mission to serve our country and the greater good.

Astronauts Collins and Kelly represent the best of the Academy they represent the best of its students and the best of its faculty. They remind us that the Academy's proud mission continues to be of immeasurable value to our nation.

Yesterday's successful Space Shuttle launch reminds us that despite the challenges that still face the Academy, the institution has, for half a century, produced some of our finest leaders.

The 360 civilians who took the oath on July 12, 1955, to become the first Air Force Academy cadets built a legacy of leadership that is at the foundation of the institution's mission. Three generations of young people have passed through the Academy and have learned to lead our nation in times of war and peace.

They live by the Academy's core values, "integrity first, service beyond self, and excellence in all we do." They inspire us all.

They inspire us because they are American pioneers like Eileen Collins, first in her field.

They inspire us because they are represented by the cadet who told me he chose the Academy because, quote, "the country needs me—our freedoms need my protection."

And the Academy's cadets inspire us because they are leading our Return to Flight, lifting our thoughts from tragedy to the triumphant possibilities of space exploration.

I congratulate the Air Force Academy, its cadets, staff, and graduates for 50 years of excellence.

And along with millions of Americans, I also wish our astronauts a safe voyage and a speedy return.

Our prayers are with you.

THE HOWRIGAN FAMILY OF FAIRFIELD, VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the Howrigan family of Fairfield, VT, who recently celebrated their annual family reunion.

The Howrigan family is a bedrock of Franklin County and Vermont agriculture, and has done much to carry on our State's agricultural stewardship tradition.

I have known many members of the Howrigan family for years and have come to appreciate the sound counsel on dairy issues and other aspects of farm policy.

Mr. President, I thank the Howrigan family for their service to Vermont agriculture and their communities, for they represent the finest tradition of our rural State.

I ask unanimous consent that a July 24, 2005, Burlington Free Press article featuring and honoring this wonderful Vermont family be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, July 24, 2005]

HOWRIGANS: A DYNASTY OF DAIRYING

(By Candace Page)

FAIRFIELD.—When Harold Howrigan's four grandsons crammed into the back seat of their aunt's pickup truck for a road trip last week, Tim Howrigan, 12, couldn't wait to tell the others what he'd heard about a breakthrough in mastitis research.

"The cows that get the new treatment, their calves produce more enzymes" to prevent the udder infection in dairy cows, he told them. He explained to his 10- and 11-year-old cousins how it's better to keep cows healthy than to have to cure them after they've become sick.

In the Howrigan clan, you are never too young to learn the family business.

"It's in the blood," says W. Robert Howrigan, 86.

Howrigans have been milking cows in Fairfield since their arrival from Ireland's County Tipperary in 1849. One Howrigan, William, and his wife, Margaret, reared 10 children on a 35-cow hill farm in the Depression days. Today, 32 of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren work farms in Franklin County—a dairy dynasty unique in Vermont.

The descendants of William and Margaret milk more than 3,000 cows and produce maple syrup from nearly 40,000 taps; their fields, pastures and woods cover 10,000 acres in Fairfield and neighboring towns.

More farms—38 of them—ship milk from Fairfield than from any other Vermont town, in part because of the community's high Howrigan count. The family has provided two of Vermont's most influential voices in state and national dairy policy: William's sons, the late state Sen. Francis Howrigan and Harold, 81, a longtime leader of the St. Albans Co-operative Creamery.

Howrigans have graduated from Harvard; become nurses, doctors, teachers and lawyers; left Fairfield or Vermont for good. But an extraordinary number of the men, and some of the women, have chosen a farm life like their parents'.

They constitute a one-clan countertrend to Vermont's annual loss of family farms in the face of low milk prices, the flight of young people and the attraction of less back-breaking work.

"Saddam Hussein couldn't drive these people off their farms," Vermont Agriculture Secretary Steve Kerr says. "They love farming. You can see that in their faces. And it's not just that they love what they do; they are making money at it."

The sprawling but tight-knit family network has proven fertile ground for growing both success and love of the farming life. Dozens of pairs of Howrigan hands will materialize to help build an uncle's barn, move a cousin's herd or teach the finer points of farming to a sister's child.

Kerr could not think of another Vermont farm clan as big and long-lasting as the Howrigans. "I don't see why what they've got isn't sustainable forever and ever," he said.

Twelve-year-old Tim Howrigan, for one, knows just what he'll do when he grows up: "I'll be a cow farmer," he said.

A FARM EDUCATION

Margaret McCarthy Howrigan bore a child every 18 to 24 months between 1915 and 1933. She made sure 10 children were fed, clothed and washed in a house not reached by electric lines until 1939.

A teacher before her marriage to William, she put as high a value on education as her husband put on improving his farmland and tiny herd. Margaret's children would go to high school. Her girls, all five of them, would go to college if they wanted and every one of them did.

William's boys were a different case. Yes, they were needed as workers on the farm, but in the Howrigan family, farming meant more than the endless repetition of milking cows and cutting hay. A farm was for problem-solving today and improving for tomorrow.

As children, the Howrigans helped their father transplant lines of maples along Howrigan Road, build drainage on the roads in their sugarbush to prevent erosion, and turn the piles of stone hauled from their fields into the foundation of an all-weather road.

Decades later, Francis, the oldest boy, would put this lesson into words his children still repeat: "Live as though you're going to die tomorrow, farm as though you're going to live forever."

He and his brothers found challenges for the brain and plenty of stimulation for their entrepreneurial instincts right on the farm. They grew up in a narrow, hill-edged valley but didn't see the farm as confining or constraining.

At 17 or 18, Harold built what he thinks was the first mechanical gutter cleaner in Vermont, on assemblage of chains and pulleys and a 5-horsepower motor to haul manure out of the barn.

"I just got tired of shoveling," he said last week.

In his teens, Francis acquired a drag saw to cut firewood for neighbors. He bought a truck and began hauling milk and hay for other farmers. In his 20s, he rented a nearby place "on halves" from a neighboring farmer, paying half the expenses and taxes, keeping half the income. By 32, he owned his first farm. Ultimately, he would accumulate 10 farms and more than 4,000 acres.

When Robert, Francis' younger brother, couldn't persuade his father to buy the farm next-door, he borrowed the money to buy it himself. He, too, would acquire additional farms—five in all—to pass on to his sons.

Even Tom, who did go to college in his 30s and became a surgeon, continues to live in

the house where he was born. At 84, he still spends many of his days cutting brush and improving the family woodlot. "I consider myself a longtime surgeon but a lifetime farmer," he said.

Some Howrigan sons still prefer to get their education on the farm. The family tells the story of Michael Howrigan, Francis' grandson, who enrolled in college after high school.

"He called home every night. He wasn't homesick. He just couldn't stand not knowing what was happening on the farm," said his father, also named Michael. The younger Michael soon quit school and went into partnership with his father in the family business.

There's no farming without family among the Howrigans. William's children started at 5 or 6, hauling wood for the stove, feeding calves, scraping the barn, picking bugs off potato plants that yielded 300 bushels a year in the cold valley.

A big family also means constant companions—siblings to share chores, play baseball in the pasture or climb the maples on the hill. Most Howrigans grow up sociable, and the pleasures of sociability help make farming attractive.

"It's pretty magical. I have cousins and siblings that are my best friends," said Kate Howrigan Baldwin of Burlington, one of 12 children of Francis Howrigan. "There's an allegiance that is unspoken. You know you are going to help one another and be there for one another. It's not a mandate—it's what you want to do."

Family is the first thing Brendan Schreindorfer mentions when he is explaining how a village boy ended up buying his own milking herd at the age of 24. His mother is a Howrigan—William was his great-grandfather—but his parents did not farm.

Instead, Brendan spent his youth tagging along behind his grandfather, Robert, and his uncles and cousins on their big farm north of Fairfield Center.

He was determined to become a dairy farmer since he was a child, he said.

"I think it was the fact that everyone was always working together to get something done. People pull together and it pulls you along. It's a family thing, and it never leaves your system once it's there," he said.

Five years ago, his parents co-signed a note to help him buy his herd. This winter, he borrowed money on his own to purchase a 625-acre farm in Sheldon. (He'd built up equity, but the Howrigan pedigree might have helped him get the loan, he said.)

His new place was run down—his cousins helped him with repairs through the winter. He needed to move his herd this spring—a small squadron of Howrigans showed up with trucks and trailers to help.

Howrigans help one another bring in hay, harvest corn, fix equipment and build barns. Patrick Howrigan, 54, of Sheldon, raised the rafters of his 200-stall barn in a day, thanks to volunteers led by his brothers and cousins.

"A lot of neighbors helped, but family was the driving force," he said.

LOVE OF THE LAND

Harold Howrigan's air-conditioned pickup truck bounced down a dirt track through one of his fields last week, between rows of corn taller than the cab. He nodded toward a nearby woods. The landowner, he said, had subdivided the land and put in five or six houses.

There was the slightest hint of disappointment or disapproval in his tone. Since he bought his first farm in 1968, he has acquired more than 1,000 acres, a rolling green landscape of maple woods and productive fields with million-dollar views.